

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 00913 211220Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 NIC-01 /074 W

----- 107821

R 211016Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 913

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, RP

SUBJ: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: CMLC MEETING

REF: A) MANILA 765; B) MANILA 766

SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO CHURCH EXPECTATIONS, MILITARY DID NOT ANNOUNCE RESULTS INVESTIGATION CHARGES OF MALTREATMENT AT CAMP OLIVAS. IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON COMING REFERENDUM, MILITARY COMPLAINED ABOUT CIRCULATION MINDANAO/SULU REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO AND SIMILAR ECUMENICAL MANIFESTO FROM MANILA AREA. ANY GOODWILL TO BE GAINED BY GOVERNMENT ADMISSION OF WRONG-DOING AT CAMP OLIVAS WILL NOW RAPIDLY DISSIPATE IF DELAY TACTICS CONTINUE. CHURCH HIERACHY CONTINUING MOVE VERY CAUTIOUSLY ON POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE REFERENDUM BOYCOTT ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COURSE LABATT DISCUSSIONS JANUARY 20 WITH CBCP (CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF PHILIPPINES) SECRETARY GENERAL MSGR. BEN ALMOCEDA (TOGETHER WITH CBCP COLLEAGUES MSGR. PARADO AND MSGR. YLLANA) AND NASSA (NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL ACTION) EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FR. LUIS HECHANOVA, EMBASSY LEARNED FOLLOWING REGARDING JANUARY 17 CMLC (CHURCH-MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE) MEETING. ALL CHURCHMEN MENTIONED ABOVE HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 00913 211220Z

PARTICIPATED IN MEETING.

2. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS CHURCH DELEGATION, MILITARY DID NOT REPEAT NOT ANNOUNCE RESULTS INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES MALTREATMENT POLITICAL PRISONERS AT CAMP OLIVAS (REF. A), CLAIMING THEY "STILL FINALIZING DETAILS". MILITARY HAD, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY THAT DURING LAST MONTH ALONE SOME 115 MILITARY MEN -- INCLUDING 7 OFFICERS -- HAD BEEN "WEEDED OUT OF SERVICE" FOR SUCH OFFENSES AS ABUSE OF USE OF FIREARMS, ETC.

3. CMLC MEMBERS ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON COMING REFERENDUM. MILITARY COMPLAINED ABOUT MINDANAO/SULU REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO (REF. B) AND A SIMILAR ECUMENICAL MANIFESTO FROM MANILA AREA (SIGNED BY VARIOUS RELIGIOUS LEADERS INCLUDING CMLC MEMBERS FR. ORTIZ REV. GEORGE CASTRO AND FR. HECHANOVA), ASKING IF THEY REPRESENTED VIEWS OF CHURCH AS WHOLE. MILITARY ADDED THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO HAD BEEN READ FROM PULPITS IN OZAMIS, MINDANAO. BISHOP ALMARIO, CHAIRMAN OF CHURCH DELEGATION, REPLIED CBCP HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ON REFERENDUM. CHURCH THEN RAISED QUESTION CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ANNOUNCED PENALTY FOR NON-PARTICIPATION IN REFERENDUM. MILITARY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT WAS MATTER FOR SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE.

4. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE CMLC MACHINERY SET UP, JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER MEETING. IT WAS SIGNED BY BISHOP ALMARIO AND DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY CRISOL. IN PAST, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNWILLING CONSIDER JOINT PRESS RELEASE AND PRESS LEAKS HAVE RESULTED IN SLANTED ACCOUNTS FROM BOTH SIDES OF CMLC PROCEEDINGS. COMMUNIQUE LARGELY AVOIDED DELICATE ISSUES OF MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND REFERENDUM BOYCOTT DISCUSSION, THROUGH CHURCH PANEL INSISTED CERTAIN INACCURACIES IN NEWS REPORTING FOLLOWING JANUARY 6 EMERGENCY MEETING (MANILA 240) BE CORRECTED. AS CONSEQUENCE, COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO EARLIER "ADMISSION BY THE MILITARY THAT, ALTHOUGH NOT SANCTIONED, IT IS POSSIBLE SOME MILITARY MEN MAY HAVE COMMITTED CERTAIN EXCESSES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 00913 211220Z

5. COMMENT: PROMPT PUBLIC ADMISSION OF WRONG-DOING AT CAMP OLIVAS DURING CMLC MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME INDICATION GOP INDEED ACTING IN GOOD FAITH. ANY GOODWILL TO BE GAINED BY ADMISSION WILL NOW RAPIDLY DISAPPEAR IF DELAY TACTICS CONTINUE. FR. ORTIZ OF CMLC HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ASSURED PRIVATELY THAT MILITARY WILL ISSUE STATEMENT ON MATTER "SHORTLY", AND FOR TIME BEING ARCHBISHOP SIN WILL NOT EXERT FURTHER PRESSURE. WITH

RESPECT POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE REFERENDUM BOYCOTT ISSUE,
CHURCH HIERARCHY CONTINUING MOVE VERY CAUTIOUSLY. ARCH-
BISHOP SIN, FOR EXAMPLE, IS PASSING WORD TO PRIESTS IN
MANILA ARCHDIOCESE TO "KEEP COOL" ON REFERENDUM MATTER. MSGR.
YLLANA SPREADING WORD TO HIS MILITARY CONTACTS THAT MINDANAO/SULU
LIBERAL WING BISHOPS ARE AFTER ALL ONLY MINORITY OF HALF DOZEN
OR SO, AND REMAINDER OF 67 BISHOPS "BASICALLY SUPPORT
PRESIDENT MARCOS."
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, PRISONERS WELFARE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA00913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750022-0765
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750134/aaaabdsz.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 765, 75 MANILA 766
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: CMLC MEETING
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, RP, CMLC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006